

Date: 28 September 2021

Report: MEMBER FEEDBACK ON PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATION (AND MEMBER CHAMPIONS' REPORTS)

Purpose

1. To provide feedback from meetings attended by Members as representatives of the National Park Authority since the last Authority meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Members consider and note the reports from the Authority's representatives.

Background

3. Members represent the Authority on a wide variety of Partnerships and, in order to keep Members and Officers updated on this representation, formal reports are brought to each full Authority meeting.
4. Member Champions are also engaged in a wide range of activities. Champions take turns in bringing annual reports to the Authority meetings – reports are attached from the Member Champions for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development. (The note of the meeting of Member Champions on 17 August 2021, providing an update of activities undertaken, has already been circulated by email).
5. These formal reports provide the opportunity to update members on the work of the various partnerships we are involved, a chance to question member representatives and Champions and a means by which we can continually assess the value of these partnerships and Champion roles.
6. The **Appendices** include:
 - 1) A list of Partnership Meetings attended in the last quarter; and
 - 2) The reports of the Member Champions for Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development.

Clare Tamea
Committees Officer
10 September 2021

Appendix 1

List of Partnership Meetings July 2021 – September 2021

Title	Member	Date	Attended	Report
Farming and Land Management Forum	Neil Heseltine	04/08/21	Yes	See Chair's Report
Local Government North Yorkshire & York	Chair	02/07/21	Yes	See Chair's Report
Local Government North Yorkshire, York and East Yorkshire (NYYEY) Housing Board	Richard Good	22/09/21	No	(Richard Foster will provide verbal update)
Yorkshire Dales Biodiversity Forum	MC for Natural Environment	22/09/21	TBC	TBC

Annual Report of Member Champion for Cultural Heritage

Actions this year have included:

- Discussions with officers about planning applications with significant historic environment issues (eg Craven Limeworks, Marske Hall);
- Speaking at Planning Committee on such applications;
- Input to preparation for review of Local Plan barns policy (especially locational aspects);
- Liaison with Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust re future conservation projects that they might take forward within the National Park;
- Online presentations to Friends of the Dales, NPA officers and members explaining how to use the recently completed Landscape Character Assessment study;
- Discussions with Trees and Woodlands Officer on how landscape character and historic environment information can feed into new woodland opportunities mapping;
- Attending online Sustainable Development Team meetings during COVID.

In addition in my role as Member Champion I have attended regular meetings of Member Champions, Conservation and Community Directorate Management Team, and the Farming and Land Management Policy Group.

This has been a year of considerable change for the Historic Environment team, with COVID impacting site surveys and community archaeology work in particular. More recently the team has seen the departure of Senior Historic Environment Officer Miles Johnson (whose replacement Sarah Whiteley joins the Authority in late September) and two other key team members, one on the archaeology side and one on the buildings side. It will be really important in the coming year to ensure that the team returns to strength and that there is good continuity.

Key aims continue to be to encourage the effective inclusion of archaeology, historic buildings and landscape issues in all aspects of our work (especially the emerging Local Plan, Environmental Land Management Scheme and Farming in Protected Landscapes); and to inform and incentivise others, such as farmers and landowners, to help manage, conserve and invest in our cultural heritage.

Julie Martin, August 2021

Report of Member Champion for Sustainable Development

Local plan

Members will recall that at the June Authority Members made decisions about the preferred planning strategy for the next local plan timeframe 2023 - 2040:

- a housing target across the park of 50 completions per annum,
- a list of service villages and larger villages where new housing would be permissible either on allocated sites or within housing development boundaries
- new build opportunities in smaller settlements to be carefully controlled (in terms of the volume, scale and type of housing permitted). Details will be brought to Members at a future meeting.
- and agreement to look for more potential housing sites in settlements where options have not come forward ie. Hawes and Reeth.

In August a 'Barns and local occupancy' paper went out for public consultation. We know the barns issue is a subject of public interest but we also need to decide whether to keep, modify or scrap our local occupancy policy which applies to small housing developments of 5 or less units. A PDF has been arranged for 2pm on the 10th November to discuss the public response and the related subject of second homes and holiday letting in the National park. The December Authority will then make a provisional decision about the direction of policy in the new local plan for barns and local occupancy.

Other local plan work ongoing includes sifting through the 90 potential housing sites received from landowners and agents. Tom Harland is leading on this and is setting up a process to deal with them which includes looking at constraints and consulting key partners. This will also include looking for additional sites in some settlements which will take a while to do thoroughly. The recommendations will again be discussed at a PDF in the new year. There will no doubt be public interest following that when the outcomes are made public.

Other work will include a review of all the housing development areas and drawing new boundaries in the extensions area. This will also be a major piece of work and again no doubt will generate considerable public interest when it is published as it will open up potential new small scale sites for future house building.

Added to this is the ongoing work on a viability study which will determine how much affordable housing we can expect from a site, also a strategic flood risk assessment and a Gypsy and Traveller study. These three studies are the subject of external consultancy contracts. Officers are also looking at policy for business (farming, tourism, services) and considering a review of minerals policy. The intention is to have a draft of the main policy areas available for consultation by the end of this financial year.

There's an awful lot of work going on.

Management Plan

As with the Local Plan a report of progress against the Management Plan objectives was made to the June Authority meeting. Progress has been reasonable despite Covid preventing many of the Park Management outreach and engagement projects from taking place.

Sustainable Development Fund

The budget for 2021/22 is £175,000. Which became available on 1 April 2021.

So far we have received 7 new applications and 16 enquiries. We remain in a good position to accept new applications for suitable projects up to the end of March 2022. Quite a large number of the new enquiries we have received have been from farmers/landowners. These have been shared with the Authority's Farm team as they may fit better with the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (FiPL).

The SDF quarterly summary gives more details about particular projects and is sent to all members and staff on 27 July 2021 to coincide with the Authority's Finance and Resources meeting.

The SDF has featured in the Summer edition of Dales magazine. The article aimed to promote the fund inviting prospective applicants to get in touch and include an overview of last year's successful projects.

Other press coverage – On 8 June 2021 we issued a press release inviting applicants to apply for this year's SDF. On 11 July 2021 Ian McPherson attended the opening event of Sedbergh Community allotments. This was the first time for over 18 months due to the impact of the pandemic that someone from the Authority has actively been involved with an SDF project. A further general press release promoting the SDF is being planned for early Autumn 2021.

Carl Lis
September 2021